



**Safeway
Transportation**

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March 22, 2010

To: Representative George Cushingberry, Chairman House Appropriations
Committee

From: Patricia Whitlow, Safeway Transportation

Re: Detroit Public Schools – RFP 9-1085-2-0

In April 2009, DPS entered into a consulting agreement with First Planning Solutions, a division of First Student Inc., to advise on issues relating to student transportation with a particular emphasis on vehicle routing and scheduling, vehicle maintenance, transportation contracts, asset management and labor agreements.

DPS retained First Student to complete an analysis of the student transportation operation, to identify opportunities for cost savings and increased productivity and to prepare and present a comprehensive report detailing its findings and recommendations.

On July 20, 2009, DPS issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Student Transportation Services (RFP 9-1085-2-0). This RFP was for 220 routes that were serviced by DPS. The routes serviced by the three Vendors were not included in this RFP. The RFP's were initially due on August 7, 2009. However, Vendors protested because of the short amount of time to submit responses and the due date was changed to August 17, 2009.

In addition to the deadline date for submission of the responses to the RFP, the Vendors voiced objections that DPS allowed First Student to perform a detailed study of the student transportation department and then were allowed to in essence use the 100-page report to write the RFP.

The bidding process was unfair and biased. First Student was given unfettered, unprecedented access to all aspects of DPS's total transportation system, included but not limited to DPS internal documentation, interviews with 625 personnel and DPS staff, evaluation of bus fleets and studying union contracts.

Safeway Transportation and other vendors were not granted access to the DPS operations comparable to the accessed granted to First Student. Moreover, Safeway Transportation believes that DPS did not keep the responses to the RFP confidential and under lock and key until the RFP was awarded.



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On December 17, 2009 DPS re-issued the RFP to include all 435 routes serviced by DPS and the three Vendors. Responses to the RFP were due on January 15, 2010. Safeway Transportation expressed concern that the responses from the August 17, 2009 were opened and the Interim Chief of Operations assured us that all bids submitted were under lock and key. However, it is our belief that it was not the case.

As Chairman of the Appropriations committee you are ultimately responsible for funding DPS. Safeway Transportation is requesting that you hold hearings to review the First Student management report, determine if recommendations proposed in this report were included in the RFP, August 17, 2009 RFP, December 17, 2009 RFP. The committee should review the process used by DPS related to First Student being allowed to bid after performing the management study and any bid rigging related to the August 17, 2009 and December 17, 2009 RFP.

As taxpayers in the City of Detroit we are outraged that a company from Great Britain with a unsatisfactory service record (DUI convictions, sexual assault on children convictions, child porn convictions) is allowed to come into the City perform a management study, write the RFP, bid on the RFP and steal work from a company who has serviced DPS and the Detroit community for 35 years with a stellar safety record evidenced by DPS's own record. Moreover, we are flabbergasted that DPS did not comply with the Buy Michigan First legislation when they awarded this contract to First Student.

Safeway Transportation has included copies of the First Student Management Report, August 17, 2009 RFP and December 17, 2009 RFP.

Thank you

Safeway Transportation

SAFeway TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES

Bond	Rekola	Rekola Bond
Barnes	Tilmon	Tilmon Barnes
Bean	Lagayle	Lagayle Bean
Brown	Cassandra	Cassandra Brown
Burton	Bernard	Bernard Burton
Cleveland	Sherl	Sherl Cleveland
Cleveland	Wilhelmina	Wilhelmina Cleveland
Coleman	Ilinda	Ilinda C. Coleman
Coleman	Linda	Linda Coleman
Collins	Jesse	Jesse Collins
Currie	Tonya	Tonya Currie
Davis	Kenneth	Kenneth Davis
Davis	Russell	Russell Davis
Dickerson	Robert	Robert Dickerson
Drain	Mary	Mary Drain
Drain	Lashante	Lashante Drain
Drain	I.W.	I.W. Drain
Drain	Willie	Willie Drain
Ealey	Gery	Gery Ealey
Eaton	Clifford	Clifford Eaton
Florence	Tommy	Tommy Florence
Freeman	Charley	Charley Freeman
Green	Teretha	Teretha Green
Haggen	Dolores	Dolores Haggen
Hale	Charles	Charles Hale Sr.
Harden	Edward	Edward Harden
Hicks	Regina	Regina Hicks

CLARK & ERIC Fine Ernest Clark

SAFEWAY TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES

Hicks	Shanda	Shanda Hicks
Irvin	Solomon	Solomon Irvin
Johnson	Lusalle	Lusalle Johnson
Jones	William	William Jones
Kendricks	Calen	Calen Kendricks
Key	Hollis	Hollis Key
King	David	David King
Koger	Earlean	Earlean Koger
Lassiter	Erica	Erica Lassiter
Lassiter	William	William Lassiter
Love	Ruth	Ruth Love
Martin	Romona	Romona Martin
Mayers	Janice	Janice Mayers
McKinney	Lyn'Nisha	Lyn'Nisha McKinney
Meridith	James	James Meridith
Moorer	Ella	Ella Moorer
Neal	Salihah	Salihah Neal
Oliver	Calvin	Calvin Oliver
Parrish	Lorene	Lorene Parrish
Payne	Brenda	Brenda Payne
Perkins	Ilene	Ilene Perkins
Pierce	Larry	Larry Pierce
Pitts	Floyd	Floyd Pitts
Pitts	Jewell	Jewell Pitts
Qualls	Alicia	Alicia Qualls
Rascoe	Geraldine	Geraldine Rascoe
CRANFORD, BYRON		Byron Cranford

SAFEWAY TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES

Rhodes	Elester	Elester Rhodes
Rogers	Pauline	Pauline Rogers
Singleton	Charlene	Charlene Singleton
Smith	Breon	Breon Smith
Smith	John	John Smith
Smith	Laticia	Laticia Smith
Smith	Odessa	Odessa Smith
Stallings	Sonya	Sonya Stallings
Stewart	Brenda	Brenda Stewart
Sykes	Dominique	Dominique Sykes
Taylor	Sheryl	Sheryl Taylor
Till	Brenda	Brenda Till
Todd	Lakeyla	Lakeyla Todd
Toy	Hubert	Hubert Toy
Trice	Obie	Obie Trice
Vardiman	Arthur	Arthur Vardiman
Wallace	Racquel	Racquel Wallace
Warren	Julia	Julia Warren
Warrick	Lester	Lester Warrick
Webb	Bernita	Bernita Webb
Webb	Stacey	Stacey Webb
Whaley	Robert	Robert Whaley
Whitlow	Patricia	Patricia Whitlow
Williams	Doretha	Doretha Williams
Young	Patricia	Patricia Young